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THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF ESOTERIC STUDIES ORDER OF THE GRAIL



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DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND MYSTICAL ENLIGHTENMENT OF MAN

ABRAXAS



A GOD ABOUT WHOM YOU KNOW NOTHING,
BECAUSE MEN HAVE FORGOTTEN HIM.

The Major Symbols Embodied in Abraxas

The head of a Rooster

A Human Body

Legs fashioned like Serpents

Shield and Whip

Chariot drawn by four White Horses

Sun and Moon

The Name

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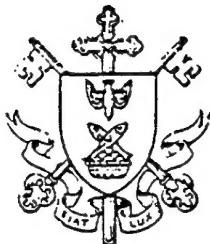
The Brotherhood and Order of the Pleroma
The Disciplina Arcani

Do You Know ?

by Richard, Duc de Palatine

"Unless and until a man embarks upon this quest of the Real Self, doubt and uncertainty will follow his footsteps throughout life. The greatest kings and statesmen try to rule others, when in their heart of hearts they know that they cannot rule themselves. Yet the greatest power is at the command of the man who has penetrated to his inmost depths. There are men of great intellect who spend their lives gathering knowledge about many things. Ask these men if they have solved the mystery of man, if they have conquered themselves, and they will hang their heads in shame. What is the use of knowing everything else when you do not know who you are? Men avoid this enquiry into the True Self."

—THE MAHARISHI, by Dr. Paul Brunton



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THE SANCTUARY OF THE GNOSIS:

This Sanctuary is the oldest Gnostic Center at the present time in the English speaking nations. The recorded historical origin of GNOSTICISM, however, begins with Pythagoras in the 6th Century B.C at Crotona in Grecia Magna (Sicily). Pythagoras was initiated into all the Classical Pagan Mysteries and duly became a Grand Hierophant with the right and authority to teach and to initiate suitable disciples into the Principles of the True Religion which has existed from the very origins of the human race.

Pythagoras retired to Crotona to establish his own Philosophical and Mystical School based upon the pattern of the Ancient Mysteries. He called his new system THE GNOSIS. Pythagoras, himself, left no record of his teachings. For what we know of them, we must rely upon the writings of his many pupils. We do know that with the closing of the School at Crotona, Pythagoras initiated a number of his personal disciples to the rank of Hierophant.



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THE PHILOSOPHY OF GNOSTICISM

As stated above, we know that it was Pythagoras who denominated the existing True Religion THE GNOSIS, which means the KNOWLEDGE OF THE THINGS THAT ARE. With his system came the restoration of the occult/mystical science as taught in all the ancient schools of every country of the world, and which still can be acquired today. Just as in the days of Pythagoras, this teaching is not the product of any new thought. It is a philosophy as old as man's desire to know that he is God incarnated within the dark tenement of the mortal body, and to experience the higher dimensions of the supersensual worlds.

Gnosticism as presented today is not new, since it embodies the study and achievement of the Gnosis. The study and fulfillment of that goal is effected by a method of interpreting sacred legends, narratives, myths and mysteries, by a rule or principle of analogy and correspondence. By this method, events related as having occurred in the external world are regarded as expressing operations and experiences of the human soul within the mortal body. A person can only interpret these mysteries therefore, according to his or her own mystical experiences.

THE SOURCE OF GNOSTICISM:

Pythagoras claimed that a person must develop the faculty of what we might today call "spiritual photography". This is a latent faculty within every human being, which provides a record of past events which ranges from the dim past of man's history to the pre-

sent day and covers all the dimensions of man's super-sensual nature. Prof. A. Wilder of Albany, N.Y., describes this latent faculty in his "THE ECLECTIC PHILOSOPHY" in effect as: "The Divine Soul is the imperishable camera in which facts and events, past, present, and future, are alike affixed". Therefore the conscious memory of our past experiences can be recalled in this day and age, provided the candidate really believes that he is God Incarnate.

Beyond our every-day world of limits and experience all is one. One day or state -- the past and future comprised in the present. Death is the last ECSTASIS on earth. At that time the Divine Soul is freed from the constraint of the body, and its nobler part is united to the Divine, becoming partaker in the wisdom (Gnosis) and foreknowledge (Pistis) of the higher beings. Therefore, the Gnosis is for the Mystics, that peculiar state described as: the ability to see the present, and future as in a clear mirror of the Divine Soul. The achieved Gnostics can see the past and relive the events therein. They can also see the future and that which is about to take place.

MAN -- THE SOURCE OF ALL KNOWLEDGE AND POWER:

The Gnostic evaluation of Man as the God Incarnate is for the serious student who desires to know and realize the mysteries of his own being and to know that he is one with the God of ALL. He thus seeks to awaken the latent spiritual powers that exist within himself as the God Incarnate that will change his whole life. This is the very essence and purpose of the True Religion which has existed from the very origin of the human race and is, therefore, the natural heritage of all people.

Thus, the mystical and occult knowledge, including all the known aspects of ESP, were possessed by the ancient Mystery Schools of Egypt, Greece, the Amer-

icas, and by the Druids of England. It is the same teaching which inspired Pythagoras, Plato, Socrates, Solon, Jesus, the Buddha, and the great Gnostic Doctors of the first three centuries of the Chrestian era, including Marcion of Rome, Valentinius and Basilides of Alexandria, and Cerenthus. All of these represented the latter part of the Gnostic cycle which had begun with Pythagoras.

THE CHRESTIAN RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY:

Historical research reveals that the Chrestian Religion was divided into two streams of activity: (a) The Psychic and Occult sciences, referring to the science of the secrets of Nature — physical and psychic, mental and spiritual. These were called Gnostic or Hermetic Sciences which are, and have been for untold ages, hidden from the vulgar mind. This condition exists for a very good reason. This knowledge would never be appreciated neither by certain of the selfish educated classes, who would misuse it for their own profit, and thus turn the True Religion into black magic; nor by the uneducated, who would not understand it.

(b) The Mystical Gnosis, that stream of Chrestian activity which seeks to achieve the object of the Psychic and Occult Sciences within man's own self here and now. Its adherents claimed, and still claim, that God is all things and that man being God Incarnate has all powers and faculties latent within him. That it is through a system of purification, moral and ethical discipline, that these powers shall become manifest within his personality.

CHRESTIANITY AND CHRISTIANITY:

As a result of impartial investigation into the backgrounds of doctrine, and the evolution of philosophy and religion, it is now revealed that Pythagoras had

two classes of students — the CHRESTES — those who were probationary pupils for the True Religion; and the CHRISTOS, those who had achieved the Object of the True Religion. We know that the philosophy underlying the various expressions of the True Religion from the days of Atlantis was known as THE GNOSIS, and those who followed this Quest were known as CHRESTIANS.

We also know from historical sources that Alexander the Great established the MYSTERIES OF SERAPIS at Alexandria in Egypt, about the 3rd Century B.C. When Alexander conquered the Eastern world, followed by the conquest of Greece and Egypt, he had for his advisers many of the disciples of the Pythagorean and the Platonic streams of the True Religion. His aim in the establishment of the Mysteries of Serapis and its Hero-god CHRISTOS, commonly known as Serapis, was an effort to blend the best elements of all the known philosophies and mystery cults into one Mystery System.

We gain some very interesting facts from the biographies of the disciples of the Pythagorean and Platonic schools of thought. All of them sought initiation into the Mysteries of Serapis, as it was considered to be the fount of all occult and mystic lore of the ages. We also find that the Mysteries were controlled by approved Hierophants of the older Mysteries of Demeter, Osiris and Isis, Cybele, Samothrace, Adonis and Attis and a number of other Eastern Cults, even as far as India. The Mysteries of Serapis became the most powerful and respected of all centers of Occult and Mystic lore from the 3rd Century B.C., to the end of the 4th Century A.D.

THE MYSTERIES OF MITHRA:

Franz Cumont in his "The Mysteries of Mithra" shows a most extraordinary insight into the nature, growth, and influence of India's Mithra into the life

CHRSTOS -
SERAPI

of Greek and Roman worlds; how Mithra influenced the various Mystery Cults which came within its influence. It also reacted by inference on Serapis in Egypt and Rome, and through this, the Mystery of Serapis became at one time the RELIGIO LICTA of the Roman Empire alongside that of Mithra. The Roman Emperors feared the dual power of Mithra and Serapis within the bounds of their empire. These latter became so powerful in the 2nd Century A.D., that Hadrian, the Roman Emperor called the Hierophants of Serapis "Bishops of Serapis and Christos".

THE INFLUENCE OF SERAPIS:

From the time of Pythagoras to that of Proclus in the 6th Century A.D. (who was considered the last of the Chrestian and neo-Platonic philosophers) the power, influence and occult abilities of the Initiates really disturbed first Republican Rome and then Imperial Rome. The list of Initiates of Serapis and Mithra kept the cultures of Greece, Rome, and Egypt in a ferment with their discoveries and scientific thinking to such an extent that the various rulers tried to suppress them, but to no avail. Gibbon in his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" clearly shows that the Initiates of Serapis and Mithra were the most cultured, advanced and ethical people in the Roman World.

Arthur Findlay in his "The Curse of Ignorance" could not but admit that the Initiates of Serapis and Mithra were the most advanced thinkers of the Classical World, he relates numerous instances where these initiates discovered many of the scientific foundations which are accepted today. They were masters of the occult sciences, the fore-runners of many of our recent scientific theories.

THE RISE OF POPULAR GNOSTICISM:

It is considered by modern investigators of Gnosticism that this cult began in the latter part of the 1st Century A.D., and that it was an enemy of the Chris-

tian Religion according to the Ante-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church. To make this claim is historically unsound, since we now know that Gnosticism existed for centuries before the Religion of Christ became a world power under Constantine the Great after the Church Council of Nicaea, in 325 A.D.

(A) We now know that the various popular Gnostics existing between the 1st to the 4th Century A.D., were first initiates of the Mysteries of Serapis, but, on becoming Hierophants, they began to teach their own version of the True Religion according to their own *mystical experiences*. The occult and mystical feats performed by these Chrestians astounded the Christian Fathers to such an extent that they feared them. They were feared for their ability to perform wonders of all kinds, and were therefore considered to be pagan Magicians.

(1) The Christians who followed Jesus (who in the original texts was referred to as "The Fisherman" — which term we intend to use in this article) resented the fact that their philosophical and mystics brothers could accomplish greater "miracles" than those recorded of their saviour by *tradition alone*. Hence the enmity between the Initiates of Serapis and Mithra and the followers of the Fisherman of Galilee. It was at Antioch that the followers of the Fisherman began to call their cult "Christian", hence the cleavage between the Chrestians of the True Religion and the Believers of Christ.

CHREST AND CHRIST:

(2) All probationary pupils for the Mysteries of the True Religion were called "Chrestes", that is to say a Wanderer. Before the pupil was allowed to awaken his own innate Spiritual Powers he was obliged to pass through three stages: that of the PURIFICATION of the whole personality, and then through a series of tests and trials to awaken the Christ (Soul) powers within him-

self. This led to the stage of becoming ILLUMINED, or overshadowed by his own Indwelling God. It was by the activation of his Divine Nature while still living a perfectly normal life in the world, that he gained control over the inner forces of Nature and finally became an ADEPT OF LIFE.

Once having passed through the Inner School, he gained proficiency in his new-found powers and became a Hierophant. He then had the right to initiate others into the same system which he himself had undergone and to give training and discipline to others. By becoming a MYSTAE or an ILLUMINED ADEPT OF LIFE, he granted to himself the power to see and relive the past, to understand the events of the present, and to foresee the events which are to come. He was then given the honoured title of being a CHRISTOS — he who becomes the Ever-Becoming One — A MASTER AMONG MEN.

TRANSFORMATION IN 325 A.D.:

The original Chrestians had gained control over the forces in Nature by means of PISTIS or Practical Knowledge and Understanding of these Forces. They were, therefore, able to command the gods to obey them. It was the everlasting complaint of the followers of the Fisherman that they were unable to perform the miracles of the Chrestians. Thus began a period of persecution of the Chrestians by the latter-day Christians. An so was brought into being the vicious conflict between the believers in the Christos as the Divine and Immortal Soul and the believers in a Christ as a *man in time*.

In 325 A.D., Emperor Constantine called all the "bishops" of the Cult of the Fisherman to a Council at Nicaea. There he ordered the carnal Bishops to formulate a creed based upon a "history" of a Saviour personified by Jesus of Nazareth as the only Son of God. A few years later, when Constantine's orders had

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been carried out, he then proceeded to destroy the Chrestians. The reason for this lies in the fact that the Chrestians, who followed the Gnostic Way of Life, believed that *every man was a Son of God*, and that Jeshu the Fisherman was a JUST MAN who demonstrated the innate power of God within every human being.

For the Chrestians — the Christ was the mighty power of man's Soul, the embodiment of God on earth or within man's nature. For the Chrestians — Christ was the Hero-God and not a person. They believed that through a discipline of one's human nature it could become the earthly mirror of the God in earth, and that once he had been overshadowed by the Divine Soul, man could control all the mathematical and geometrical forces in Nature and perform all kinds of wonders.

The Christians of Nicaea and Antioch denied the possibility that man is a reflection of God on earth, and called the scientific results of the Chrestians the work of the Devil. They demanded of Constantine the destruction of the Chrestians as heretics who were attempting to pervert the Christian Religion. The Ante-Nicene Fathers of the new religion of Christ overlooked the fact that the Chrestians (commonly called Gnostics *through ignorance*) existed many centuries before the Christian Fathers. Therefore logically, one must call the Christians the heretics against the True Religion, the adherents of which were then known as Chrestians.

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THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TRUE RELIGION:

As soon as Constantine made the Christian Religion the RELIGIO LICTA of the Roman Empire, and after the Ante-Nicene Fathers had muzzled the original foundations of the Chrestian Cult, they destroyed everything pertaining to the True Religion. Adherents of the Chrestian Religion were ruthlessly sought

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out and destroyed. Great libraries were burned and a political religion — a Religion of Power, instead of a Religion of Wisdom — was made the key note for the next 1600 years.

The accumulated knowledge of the True Religion, accumulated over vast centuries of time, was destroyed by the Christians for fear that it would destroy the uniqueness of the Religion of Jesus after 325 A.D.. Branches of the Ageless Truth which we now call E.S.P., Occultism, Spiritism, Psychology, Philosophy, Masonry, and science, were forbidden. The Light of the Gnosis as denominated by Pythagoras in the 6th Century B.C. was eliminated by the fanatic and ignorant Christians. From the 4th Century A.D., the whole of Europe was overshadowed by a Dark Age of ignorance and gross superstition. Gone were the Centers of Wisdom. Mankind was forbidden to investigate the natural forces of nature and within himself. No man was permitted to follow the Star of his own Illumination. All people had to accept the Church and the Christian Bible as the only means of salvation.

THE REBIRTH OF THE TRUE RELIGION:

It was due to the humanistic revival of art, literature, occultism and learning in Europe between the 14th and 16th Century, that western man began to question the foundations of the Christian religion, the religion of power, oppression and degradation of the Human Spirit. With this awakening of the human intellect and the desire for Truth, the power of both East and West aspects of the Catholic Church declined, and a new age of Wisdom and Spiritual Freedom became possible. The Christian religion has always stood for the privileged few: the bishops, priests, and monks, assisted by the kings and a very corrupt aristocracy. Assisted by the gross superstition of the Church, the majority of the people were kept in abject poverty and ignorance.

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THE EMERGENCE OF THE GNOSIS:

The 15th Century saw the re-establishment of Centers of Learning and Wisdom. It saw the coming forth of the True Religion with its Gnostic Philosophy under the guise of the Knights Templar, the Fratres Lucis, the Rosicrucians, the Illuminati, Freemasonry and Theosophy. In spite of the proscriptions of the Catholic and Protestant Churches, the Higher Science of the Spirit gained ground in every century. The Mystics, the Alchemists, medicine, science, etc., became free to talk of and to publish their findings. From the 14th Century to the present-day we have seen the re-emergence of the True Religion under many forms, in spite of the efforts of the Established Christian Religion to stem the upsurge of the Wisdom of the Ages.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY:

It has been calculated that some 6,000,000 people were either martyred or suppressed by the Christian religion. The Bishops and priests of the Ante-Nicene Church were responsible for this brutal carnage of human Souls. The Church today thinks in terms of Power and Superstition, whereas the Chrestians think and act in terms of Love, Justice and Brotherhood.

We must not forget that the emancipation of the human Soul today is not due to the Christian Church, but to the countless number of adherents of the True Religion through the ages. It is due to these martyred souls that today we are free to follow the Star of our own Illumination, and with the freedom to interpret this Wisdom according to our own mystical experiences.

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THEORY VERSUS ACTION:

We claim that Chrestianity and its philosophy of THE GNOSIS is not a "theory of life"; it is fundamentally a "way of life". It, the Chrestian Gnosis, above all, gives a meaning to man and creates within himself the innate power to make a success of his life. We stress the fact that a man was born with all the potentials for success, and all he has to do is to develop these latent faculties and make them manifest in his daily life. If this natural life is lived according to its principles and according to the teachings of the Pleroma, it will change his life from one of hopelessness to one of dynamic purpose.

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THE Gnostic METHOD:

Chrestianity states that man is fundamentally God in the body. This being so, we claim that the God-Power is within man's own Soul and, by the teachings and method of the Pleroma, he first awakens this power, and then draws it outwards into the human personality. There are no external exercises, methods as such, etc., in this teaching, *it can be lived and practised within one's own home*. This is the startling simplicity of the Gnosis, one lives according to the prescribed life, and in a twinkling of an eye, the Soul becomes manifest. If 200 men and women, known to us personally, have changed their lives and have been able to banish fear, anxiety, want and unhappiness in their lives by means of our teachings, there is no reason why you should not start now.

THE SOUL AND ITS POWERS:

The great Mystics, Seers, Sages, Philosophers, renowned Occultists and impartial Scientists throughout the ages have spoken of, and demonstrated, the mighty Power of their own Soul once it has been allowed to enter the body and manifest its tremendous

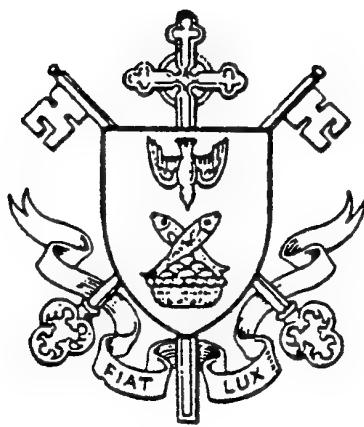
powers . . . such powers and faculties as are not even dreamed of by the ordinary man. The Fisherman of Galilee, when he was asked by what power he performed his miracles, replied very simply: It is not I who do these things **BUT BY THE POWER WITHIN ME.** He also states: Even as I have done these things, ye shall do greater! This is the eternal promise given to those who obey the command of the God within them.

SELF INITIATION:

Although it is the effects of the Tincture of Charisma from the Soul of Man which grants him Initiation into the Secret Science of Life (resulting in the manifestation of many amazing types of phenomena) when this occurs, it is the work of the Outer Leader of the Pleroma to help and guide the student into the ability to handle these newfound powers and faculties. We must stress this all important fact, *this teaching and the way of self-realization is not for the idly curious nor the sensationalist.* However, serious study and dedication will make him a **MASTER AMONG MEN.**



THE SANCTUARY



OF THE GNOSIS

This Booklet is an edited copy of the original distributed by the late Richard, Duc de Palatine, who carried on this work in the U.S.A.

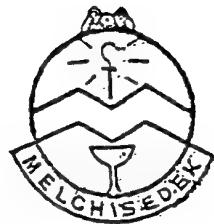
The Sanctuary has now been restored in Great Britain and carries on the Tradition of the original Order. We are continually updating the teachings; but we remain true to the correct Initiatic Principles of all ages and we act as a central authority on the ancient gnosis throughout the world.

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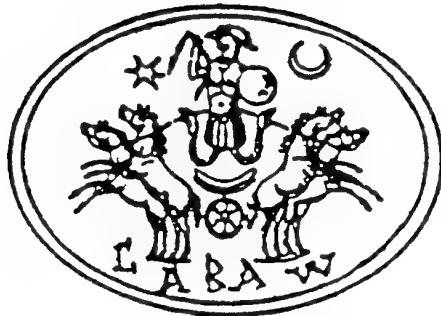
THE SANCTUARY OF THE GNOSIS is governed
by an Inner Council

which incorporates the Order of Melchisedek, often referred to as the Inner Church, the College of Sacred Science - for the training of Priests and the New Age Church Universal

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PROLOGUE

Originally we intended this booklet to be a short resume of the meaning and background of what is now known as "Gnosticism". But by probing into the origins of Christianity, the Chrestians, the Gnostics and the Essenes, one does come up against some extraordinary facts in history known to the scholars and specialists, but which are rigidly kept from the layman.

I think that the reason the layman has allowed the specialist to speak for him down through the centuries, and why civilization and ideas take a very long time to get established, is because people hate having their myths destroyed. At the same time, paradoxically, they are almost always averse to the creation of new ones. Yet the whole purpose of evolution is to create, to ripen, and then to destroy the old that the new shall flourish. Nations and religions seem to follow this evolutionary rule, wherein the new freely borrows an idea from the old and then claims credit for having discovered it.

One of the great myths which was created in the 4th Century A.D. was the one regarding THE GNOSIS and its adherents — THE CHRESTIANS. The Bishops of the new religion of Christianity worked very hard and used every means to muzzle the origins of the Religion of Christ. When they thought they had muzzled the past, they began to despoil that past in order to enrich their own religion. This myth was erected in three stages: (1) that THE GNOSIS was a heresy seeking to destroy Christianity; however, it is now being historically proven that THE GNOSIS is as old as man himself; (2) that THE GNOSIS was a foreign 'religion' intruding into Christianity; but now the scholars know differently. THE GNOSIS IS NOT A RELIGION, it is a philosophical 'way of life'. And lastly, but not least, (3) the Christians claim that their religion is superior to Gnosticism; but it has now been proved that THE GNOSIS grants to man super-human powers and capabilities. The Christians, after the 4th Century, lost THE GNOSIS from their religion, and thus it degenerated into a religion of blind faith.

The finding of the Scrolls at Qumram near the Dead Sea has now forced the scholars and theologians to accept the premise that Christianity is an offshoot of, if not in fact, basically the Essene Community restored under a new name. This fact is being deliberately withheld from the layman. In this short discourse I hope to reveal to the reader some of his glorious and exalted past, and to show that THE GNOSIS is actually the True Religion which was in existence from the very origin of the human race.

Richard, Duc de Palatine, D.D.
January, 1974

THE SANCTUARY OF THE GNOSIS

This Sanctuary is the oldest Gnostic Sanctuary at the present day in the English speaking nations. Up till 1953, this Sanctuary was completely esoteric having been unknown to the general public since the 6th Century B.C.

THE MEANING OF GNOSTICISM

It is very difficult for the layman to appreciate the work of the scholar, which is one reason why he is not kept abreast of the findings of the scholar, moreso since most scholars consider that the layman is not suited to understand, hence the latest findings very seldom become known to him. One of these hidden or minimized discoveries in this century is that the Greek world, from the 3rd Century B.C. to the end of the 3rd Century A.D., did not use classic Greek, but used a colloquial version of Greek called *KOINE*. This idiom was as different from Classic Greek as our present English is to the language of Chaucer. When this was realized, the scholars found themselves obliged to re-evaluate the findings of the Dead Sea Scrolls in relation to the Aramaic and Greek versions. This has also been applicable to the Papyruses found at Nag-Hammadi in Egypt (vide: Rev. Dr. Charles F. Potter and Rev. A. Powell Davis).

The classical Greek meaning of *GNOSIS* is, as translated into English, "The Knowledge of the things that are"; whereas, in the common language of that age — Koine (Konnay), Gnosis means "The Knowledge and Experience of the things that are". Since we now know that the commercial and communicating language of the Greek world from the 3rd Century B.C. was not classical Greek, but simply this colloquial language later called *KOINE*, it can explain simply the differences in the meaning of the word *GNOSIS*.

The word Gnosticism has the same meaning and purpose as those of our modern terms "theosophia" or "occultism". The exception is that occultism has become a theory, whereas THE GNOSIS was, and is, the practical application of man's own experience of his own Inner Nature.

THE GNOSIS, or, as it is commonly known, Gnosticism, in its true and practical meaning, is a "way of life", to be lived in the mortal body. If its rules and principles are applied to human life, they will change the dullest life into a joyful, happy and meaningful experience, as has been proven by Prof. Walter T. Stace in his work "THE TEACHINGS OF THE MYSTICS".

IS GНОSTICISM A RELIGION?

There is no evidence in the writings of the so-called Gnostics to show that Gnosticism was considered a 'religion' from the days of Pythagoras till the end of the 4th Century A.D. (Vide: THE LIBRARY OF THE ANTE-NICENE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH.) There is ample evidence to show that it was not a religious belief, but rather that it was a 'philosophy of life', which could, and still can be applied to human life to assist man to change his own life and become aware of his Divine Nature.

THE GIFTS OF THE GNOSIS

The supernatural gifts ascribed to the CHRESTIANS and GНОSTICS were far above the traditionally known gifts of the Spirit, in their days and even in ours. The Gnostics were known to have an uninterrupted succession of miraculous powers: the gift of tongues, of vision, memory of past events, of prophecy and the power to expel demons (vide: Carl G. Jung), to heal the sick, raise the dead, and confer the powers of immortality. These have all

been fully attested to by historical evidence, whereas the miracles of "Jesus of Nazareth" have come down to us by tradition alone (vide: Justin Martyr).

The supernatural gifts developed by the achieved Gnostic and Chrestian can be demonstrated even in this materialistic age, so long as the aspirant will live the prescribed life in order to unfold the natural and inherent faculties within man, irrespective of the stage of his unfoldment. Man, being the embodiment of the Godhead, must, in the normal course of evolution, unfold his God-Powers, whether in this or in some future life.

CHRISTIANITY ESSENE AND NOT GNOSTIC

When the full implications of the blunder of ignoring the colloquial Greek language can be assessed, it will throw a very different light upon the Nag-Hammadi papyrus and the Dead Sea Scrolls in relation to the origins of the Gnostic, Essene, and Christian traditions. It has been the traditional opinion that Christianity was the offshoot of the Gnostic Movement stemming from Alexandria in Egypt. However, it is now suspected, with very good reasons, that Christianity did not stem from Gnosticism but rather from the Essene community which existed on the shores of the Dead Sea. It is now the considered opinion of some that Christianity stems from the Essenes, and that Christianity borrowed concepts from the Gnostic Schools at Alexandria and all of the known Pagan Mystery Schools.

IS GNOSTICISM ANTAGONISTIC TO CHRISTIANITY?

It was Pythagoras in the 6th Century B.C. who first referred to the Wisdom Religion as THE GNOSIS, which philosophy became known later as the CHRESTIAN RELIGION. In the time of Plato, the 5th

Century B.C., it became designated as PLATONISM. When Alexander the Great (356-323 B.C.) King of Macedonia, conquered the then known world, he founded the "Mysteries of Serapis" at Alexandria in Egypt. This was a blend of all the known mystery and occult bodies both East and West. Those who were initiated into these Mysteries were known as "Chrestes" or "Chrestians", meaning in occult parlance, pupils on probation. From this emerged the "Chrestian Community" of achieved Gnostics, about the beginning of the 2nd Century A.D. (Vide: DO YOU KNOW, by Richard, Duc de Palatine.)

About the beginning of the 2nd Century A.D., certain initiates of Serapis took an independent line of study in the Wisdom Religion. They chose the method of interpreting the existing mysteries according to their own mystical experience, through the power of Illumination. It is now common knowledge that the followers of Jesus of Nazareth or Jeshu ben Pandira (vide: The Babylonian Talmud) followed the same principles as those of the Essenes until the 4th Century A.D. It was only after 325 A.D. that the Christians at Antioch and Rome began to carnalize and dogmatize the True Religion.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

Scholars for years were puzzled about the difference between the New Testament quotations of the Old Testament. However, when it was discovered that the New Testament had been written in Koine and not in pure classical Greek, these differences were resolved. They now realize that the idiomatic meaning between the two kinds of languages must be taken into account. This means that our present version of "THE GOSPEL OF ST. THOMAS" must be radically re-evaluated in the light

of the Greek Koine. There are differences between the expressions, and this must be taken into account when evaluating the premise whether Christianity is an offshoot of Gnosticism or of the Essene Community.

THE CONFUSION OF THE GNOSIS

With the findings of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the six caves at Qumram and considering the widespread use of the Koine throughout the Greek world, it has been found that the philosophy of the Gnostics of Alexandria and the concept of Messianic Hope were developed separately of each other. The Gnostics of Alexandria evolved their theosophic systems through the Priests of the Temples and the Greater Mysteries. They were influenced by Hermes, the Divine Poimander, the Theurgic practices of the neo-Platonists, who interpreted all the mysteries, symbols and allegories by means of the law of analogy or correspondences. The channel for their expression was through the intellect and intuition; they concentrated upon the Father/Consciousness of man's spiritual life.

When we come to deal with the Messianic Groups scattered around Palestine, we find that they evolved their Messianic hope message from the Old Testament. They did not seek to interpret the mysteries of the Secret Tradition in Israel by means of analogy. They claimed that the answer to the problem of Light and Darkness, the Fall of Man, the Garden of Eden, etc. was to be found within the Old Testament. They claimed that there would appear a Savior or Messiah to save mankind from its enemies and restore the Kingdom of God on earth. It is now fairly obvious from this that modern Christianity evolved out of the Essenes, and not from the Gnostics as previously believed.

In spite of the claims of the *Ante-Nicene Fathers* of the Church that Gnosticism was a heretical doctrine and antagonistic to the new religion of Christ, secular history makes it quite clear that the Christians, named by the new Church "Gnostics", had existed long before the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. It was then that Constantine the Great declared the new *Christian Religion* to be the official religion of the Roman Empire. From that time onwards Christians have been forbidden to study the hidden Laws in Nature or even to follow the Star of their own Illumination which comes from the Godhead resident within their own Nature.

FROM THE 4TH TO THE 20TH CENTURY

With the final suppression of the Chrestians, their Gnostic Philosophy and "Way of Life" in the Mediterranean world, the Chrestian/Gnostics went underground, since the Gnosis was forbidden to exist by the official Church. This Gnosis, however, had been and remained an integral part of the teachings and application of "The Order of the San Grael" since the 3rd Century A.D., in England and France. It appeared again as "The Knights Templar" in the 13th Century. These were followed by the "Fratres Lucis of Florence" in the 15th Century. Then in that same century came the "Brotherhood of the Rosae Crucis" in Germany. This was followed by the Masonic "Order of the Illuminati" in 1776, Mesmer's "Order of Magnetic Masonry" and Cagliostro's "Egyptian Masonry". The "Hermetic Brotherhood of Light" which came later, is based upon the teachings of Thrice Greatest Hermes, deriving from the Mysteries of Serapis. Hermes was not a Gnostic, since he was the Greek and Egyptian God of Wisdom. (Vide: John Yarker Jr: THE ARCANE SCHOOLS).

In 1875, H.P. Blavatsky founded the "Theosophical Society", wherein she restored a portion of the Gnostic Philosophy under the title of "Theosophia" or the Wisdom Religion. She states that THE GNOSIS was the original study and practice of the ancient occultists (vide: ISIS UNVEILED).

In 1953, Richard, Duc de Palatine began the restoration of THE GNOSIS in this century under diverse designations culminating in THE BROTHERHOOD AND ORDER OF THE PLEROMA; first in England and then in the United States. Therefore, the Pleroma can rightly claim to be the moral and legal successor to the ancient Gnostic Philosophy beginning with Pythagoras. It is interesting to note that this claim has been acceded to by the College of Propaganda of the Roman Church.

THE GOD-MAN AND HIS INCREDIBLE AGE

It is now suspected that there were many great civilizations before ours. It is further suspected that the last one was destroyed by water some 12,000 years ago because man began to misuse his God-Powers. We are told that the legendary Noah was warned of the coming flood and prepared for it, and only he and his family were saved. Of course, this story is a myth concealing many great truths which can be interpreted by the individual according to his own mystical experiences. Not so for the Judaic Christians. They firmly believe in the story of Noah as historic, as also in the historical battle in Heaven between the Angels of Light and the Angels of Darkness. They further believe that God physically drove Adam and Eve out of Eden for their disobedience to His Will; that man physically fell from heaven, and will corporeally rise back to Heaven by the assistance of God's Son who came to earth as the Savior of the World!

The Hellenistic Christians, however, rejected the gross and materialistic interpretation of what is really a solar and mystical story of man. That sublime story of man forced to enter human bodies in order to develop and use his God-Powers. The Christians considered Jesus simply a 'Just Man' or one who was overshadowed by his own Soul, shown in Koine and our classical Greek as the "Christos" or the Indwelling Presence in every man. It is the knowledge and experience of the Christos/Soul within him that gives man the HOPE and SECURITY that he must and will walk the earth as the God-Incarnate.

The Gnostic Principles

We realize the Gnostic principles outlined below are just postulates to you at this time; but to us (and to you also if you decide to make the effort) these represent actual experiences. The Gnosis then is based on the following principles:

- (1) That there is a Unity of Life, and that all creatures and things share in this One Life, therefore the innate possibilities of man are limitless.
- (2) That the cosmos and man are worked and guided from within outwards. This means in effect that man possesses all the qualities, character, knowledge and wisdom from the very moment he is born, and it is the work of the Gnosis to show him the way in which he can make these latent qualities active in his daily life.
- (3) That Gnosis is first the inner quest for the knowledge about the Real Self within the human body. Second, it is the actual experience of this Real Self.





A B R A X A S

One of the most potent of Gnostic symbols used by the ancients to express the sovereign power and activity of the unknown, unmanifest, androgynous God. It has been found carved in many temples and on precious stones and serves as a reminder of the ever-present, irresistible activity of the God-head in all life.

The head of the rooster is facing the sun and heralds the dawn. The human body reminds us that at this level every facet of life is focussed and manifest in mankind. Divine protection is symbolised by the shield, and the whip denotes the discipline required for the control of the forces of life depicted by the four white horses, variously interpreted as the elements: earth, fire, water and air; or the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual makeup of man, which are also being held in check by the reins held by the serpents. Serpents are an ancient symbol, found all round the world, portraying knowledge and understanding and as legs represent right movement as well as the columns of the temple.

Also implicit in the symbol are concepts of the movement of time. The chariot is representative of the evolutionary cycles of man and the name "Abraxas" in both the Greek and Hebrew alphabets has a numeric value of 365. It has also been suggested that the seven letters correspond to the 7 rays of creative power. The name has no root, is in fact "made up", indicating the impossibility of naming the nameless which stands behind all manifestation.

The sun and the moon are the polar opposites that in this powerful symbol are held in perfect equilibrium. The Sun being the highest symbol of the Godhead at this point and the Moon its reflection - God-Man. In this marvellous allegorical picture everything is harmonised and transcended and is one of the best approximations depicting the active manifestation of the Pleroma we have.

From the explanation of "Abraxas" given at
The Seminar.

The Brotherhood and Order of the Pleroma The Disciplina Arcani



THE FIRST CHRESTIAN CHURCH

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by Richard, Duc de Palatine

The word Chrestos existed ages before Christianity was ever heard of. Certainly long before 325 A.D. This can be attested by reputable historians from the 5th Century B.C. There are evidences extant even today which prove beyond cavil that the term Christian was used to denote a Good Man. This fact has been attested from the 5th Century B.C. by Herodotus, called the Father of History, and then by Aeschulus, and other classical Greek writers, the meaning of this term being applied to both things and persons.

Christians Not Christians

Canon Farar's **THE EARLY DAYS OF CHRISTIANITY** spells originally CHRISTIAN as CHRESTIAN, in the same manner as Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Clemens Alexandrinus and Lactantius, and many other Fathers of the Church spelled it. The worthy Canon was forced to admit that the name CHRISTIAN was *first invented by the sneering, mocking Antiochians, as early as A.D. 44*, but had not come into general use before the persecution by Nero. Even Claudius looked with alarm and suspicion on the Christians, so nicknamed in derision for their carnalizing a subjective principle or attribute. So the work of fraud had started even before 325 A.D.

That the British Isles are a relic of a vaster continent cannot be denied. Even Ignatius Donnelly in his two works "Atlantis — The Antediluvian World" and "The Destruction of Atlantis" clearly shows that the TRUE RELIGION from Atlantis had migrated to England and Ireland. Lewis Spence in his three works **THE PROBLEM OF ATLANTIS**, **ATLANTIS IN AMERICA**, and **THE HISTORY OF ATLANTIS** brings to light more details that show England as originally a part of Atlantis. H.S. Bellamy also gives some startling facts about Atlantis in England and Ireland. From their findings there is suf-

ficient evidence to show that England and Europe formed part of a larger land mass, and that somewhere about the 10th Century B.C. this land mass was broken up by an upheaval.

If this is true, and our geologists have now proven this to be correct, it would account for the traditions prevailing in Ireland; and the West of England all speak of their former home which was situated in the Isles of the West now sunken beneath the Atlantic. From this homeland they received all their social, religious and political systems. This could infer that Britain was an already highly cultured land before the Romans came in 55 B.C. It could also account for the existence of their religious system called Druidism, where the name of their chief deity was called CHRESTUS. That is the real reason why Julius Caesar tried to exterminate the Druids, since he was deified and given also the title of CHRISTUS (Roman spelling). Who borrowed from whom?

A.D. 37 — Origins of English Christianity

Sometime in A.D. 37 there arrived on the West shores of England — possibly Avalon, the Isle of Apples — certain strangers of Culdich 'quidam advenae', reportedly coming from Egypt. The Leader of the strangers was known as Joseph of Arimathea, an initiate of Serapis and Christos in Egypt. When he related his religious doctrines to the Arch Druid, the priest replied that he and his people **were well aware of this doctrine**, since they had received it from their forebears across the ocean, in their homeland now beneath the sea.

The Strangers were hospitably received by Ariragus, King of the West Britons or Silures, and were settled in the Druidic College there. It is reported that the magical practices brought from Egypt were the same as those practiced by the Druids. The Welsh Bards tell us that great scholars from Phoenicia, Egypt, Chaldea, India, Greece and then finally Rome made pilgrimages to Britain to be trained in their wisdom and magical practices. It was therefore from Britain that the Torch of Civilization was passed from them to other nations during a period of six thousand years according to Herodotus. This ancient scholar further states that Egypt and Britain derived their civilization from Atlantis, known in those far off days as the Fabled Land of Lyonesse of King Arthur.

The Bards of Ireland tell us that they were a part of Twin Islands called Antilla and Atlantis. Julius Caesar was told by the Druids in 55 B.C. that in six thousand years your world made no advance in civilization which it originally received from Antilla or the Isles of the Blest. Again Herodotus was told by the Priests of On that in the Isles of the West, he would find their sister land. The secret name of their Saviour was called Chrestes and that it was within the Hill of Tara in Ireland that the Oracle of God could be found. He was further told that their written history dated nearly 14,000 years before his time. What we call now the occult arts were known and brought to

the nth degree of accuracy. Their temples were places of Immortality and the Fountain of Eternal Youth. Their Seers could see the past, the present and the future as though it was happening now.

The Domus Dei

Later the Culdich built their first Temple, the "Domus Dei", where now stands the remains of the great Monastery of Glastonbury. The Glastonbury Tor was already in existence many thousands of years before the great Monastery. It was built in a form of a pyramid after Egypt and Central America. It stands in the middle of a great zodiac, whose origins are lost in time. The outline of the Zodiac is the same as those to be found in Utah and Brazil. Godfrey of Monmouth writes that there is a tradition prevailing at earliest times that a great golden ball stood on the top of the Tor.

Therefore, one can easily trace the history of the Culdees from A.D. 37, but their origin has always baffled the historians. There are three claims put forward: that the Cultores Dei (Culdees) were friends and some were disciples of Jesu ben Pandira who escaped the persecution in Rome at the time of Caligula. When this ruler banished the Serapeans and philosophers from Rome, Jesu may have travelled to Britain via Egypt and Iberia. Whether or not this claim can be historically verified is debatable since the historical date of Jesus (Jesu) still remains in question. However, we feel it is doubtful that a more logical explanation is to be found within the remains of the history of the Gnostics.

Isiaca Mensa

We know that Caligula hated the Gnostics and the Serapeans, because he was refused initiation by them. In retaliation for their refusal, he ordered them out of Rome. We know from Legend that a group of strangers appeared at Cadiz in Spain carrying with them an emerald image of Serapis whom they called Chrestes. They remained there for some years until their presence disturbed the populace. They then requested permission to sail to Britain and the northern people of Iberia built them ships and gave them provisions. The High Priest gave them a Tablet with 22 faces called the Isiaca Mensa. He claimed that it was copied from the original at Alexandria in Egypt, their homeland, with the instructions to build a mound and bury it at the center. When the Arch Druid saw the Mensa, he prostrated himself before it and ordered an armed guard to protect it.

Later, the High Priest took the leader of the strangers to a small mound and showed him an exact copy of the Mensa, which he claimed his forefathers brought from Antilla in the West, and which allegedly had lain in the Chariot of the Temple of Poseidon and Clieto, the protecting gods of Antilla. Alexander found a replica of this Mensa in the Patheon of the Acropolis in Athens. Here we

have the Isiaca Mensa mentioned in Atlantis, Britain, Iberia, Rome, Athens and then at Alexandria. It was called the Tablet of Thoth. It was commonly known throughout the classical world as the CHRESTES or Oracle of the God!

On the death of Herod, King of Judae, in 4 B.C., Augustus divided Herod's kingdom between the tetrarchs Archelaus Antipas, and Phillip. In A.D. 6 Archelaus was deposed and Judaea became a Roman province. At this time Tiberius became Caesar, and in A.D. 24 Phillip, the Jewish tetrarch, died and *circa* 36 John the Baptist was put to death by Antipas. Here again we are in dangerous waters; we know practically nothing of the Baptist except in the New Testament. We do know that after this supposed death of the Baptist, there was a migration of Jewish Gnostics from Judaea who travelled to Rome for protection. Whether this is a recall of the statement of Isaiah that the Jews migrated to the Isles in the West is uncertain. The fabulous Isles of the West was already under water, so we can only conclude that the Isles of Isaiah referred to Britain.

Different Calendars

Here you will see that we are laboring under an astronomical problem: The Jewish calendar differs by many years with the Roman Calendar, so we have to decide which one does the New Testament pseudo-history follow. Then we have to take into account that there is a century difference between the Roman Julian calendar and the Catholic calendar of Gregory of Rome. If the Gregorian calendar is a century too early, and this has been proved by astronomical calculations, we are indeed in deep waters. These facts must be taken into account when dealing with the pseudo-historical basis of the New Testament, more so with the Book of Acts now accepted in the Christian Canon, and which book was known to be spurious even as early as the 3rd Century A.D.

Tiberius died and Caligula ascended the imperial throne in A.D. 37. During the reign of Caligula, as stated earlier, Tacitus reports that the Bishops or Hierophants of Serapis were persecuted and banished from the Roman Empire. Tacitus mentions that there was a great evacuation of priests and philosophers from Rome, and they sailed away towards the East, while some migrated to Egypt. At the same time there was another migration from Jerusalem and Galilee of certain Gnostics who went to Egypt and then to Iberia (Spain).

Roman Persecutions

After the assassination of Caligula, Claudius ascended the imperial throne. Mainly by the inspiration of Seutonius, who hated both Claudius and the Serapean Cult, Claudius also became alarmed at the power of the Serapean Bishops. Seutonius, Head of the State Academy on Capitoline Hill in Rome, became very disturbed at the power of the Gnostics and sought their banishment from

Rome. So again a migration started, this time of Serapeans and Priestesses of Isis. As explained earlier, Claudius was deified and given the title of "Christus" by the Romans. When Claudius went to Britain, he was acclaimed by the people as the Lord of the Chrestes, and they built a temple to him, and was given the title of Chrestes by the Druids and the petty Kings of Mercia and Sussex.

When Claudius died by poison at the instigation of Agripinna, to get her son Nero on the throne, Nero accused the "followers of a Christus who died by Pontius Pilate". Although this was an excuse, as we all know, it does have a very great bearing upon the events which took place in Britain.

Bishops of Christos

Here we must recall a very important fact: in the times of Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius and then later during the reign of Hadrian (117-138 A.D.), the Bishops of Serapis were also called *Bishops of Christos*, hence the Gnostics, Serapeans and Chrestians all belonged to the same fraternity. We also know from historical evidence that the term 'Christos' was used throughout the Greek and Roman world for many centuries B.C. as a divine and personal name given to heroes and great men after their death. We suggest that the word Culdich is the Gaelic term for "Chrestes", "The Wanderer" and a pupil on probation for Initiation into the Mysteries of the Christos or Serapis. The main theme of Serapis was the Quest for the Christos (the Divine Soul) and then the achievement of it through Initiation or 'mystical experience'. Again the most important fact to keep in our mind is that the words Christ, Christos, Chrestes were common words throughout the classical world and in the legendary periods long before 325 A.D.

One must also take note that the supernatural gifts ascribed to the Gnostics and Chrestians were far above the traditional known gifts. The Gnostics were known to have an uninterrupted succession of miraculous powers: the gift of tongues, of vision, and of prophecy; the power to expel demons, heal the sick, raise the dead, and conferring the powers of immortality, etc. These were fully attested to by historical evidence, whereas the miracles of "Jesus of Nazareth" have come down to us by tradition alone. This was the complaint of Justin Martyr and Lactantius. Julius Caesar states that the followers of the Druids and Serapis adhered to a very stern *Disciplina Arcani* involving many years of arduous training.

Jesus Followed an Older Tradition

So far, any form of historical analysis of the first three centuries of the Christian era brings up many problems for the Christian layman. But, the scholars have always known that historically, the religion of Jesus Christ did

not stem from him, but that he simply perpetuated the True Religion which had existed from the very origin of the human race, that is to say from the last days of Atlantis. We know very little of the national and religious conditions of Atlantis in its prime, only what is revealed by Plato and many other classical scholars. There are certain Gospel references which make it quite clear that Jesus followed an older tradition, and that he was just repeating these traditions, as most teachers of mankind have stated.

Historians and scholars have always noted the remarkable similarity which exists between Druidism and the Serapean Cult brought to England by the "strangers", and could account for the reason that the first converts of the Culdees were the three Arch Druids of England. The word Gnosticism has a wider connotation than that which is given to it by the Ante-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church. Gnosticism means "The Knowledge and Experience of the Things That Are", and therefore we find Gnostics within every religious system known.

We find from "Ecclesiastical Antiquities" of the Cymry, that the Silurian Druids claimed that their teachers came from the Isles of the Blest now lost beneath the Great Ocean some six thousand years ago. This may account for their reason for embracing the "Cult of the Christos" on its first promulgation in Britain. It was Les ap Coel (Lucis) in A.D. 156, who confirmed the Bardic privileges when they became "Chrestians", and this king declared the "Cult of the Christos" to be the national religion of England.

Many of our students have wondered why the scholars still use the term "Christian" instead of "Chrestian". The answer is very simple when you think about it: they are Christians first and scholars afterwards, so it is obvious that they have not done their homework, and like all Christians they never bother to read up on their history!

To understand the origins and background of the religious movement called "Christian", the student has to study religions from Atlantis, the Phoenicians, the Egyptians, the Chaldeans, the Indian; the religions of Greece and Rome in the West, then those of Attis, Adonis, Mithra; the cults of the Essenes and Zealots of Judaea. Those should be studied not in their relationship to Christianity, but rather Christianity's relationship to them. Honest studies should be made on how they influenced and even helped to mold the present form of the Christian religion, the youngest one of them all.

No scholar would be stupid enough to hold that the Mediterranean nations and the ancient American nations, each spontaneously and separately invented similar arts, sciences, habits, and the similar religious myths in both sides of the Atlantic without a land connection existing between them, and that England and Ireland could have been a part of that cultural passage. It is obvious that they must have descended one from the other, or have radiated from one common source — Atlantis.

King Arthur Legend — Not Christian

It is again evident that the story of King Arthur and the Round Table is not Christian, but "Chrestian", and was patterned after the Constitutions of the Platonic Arcane Discipline of Alexandria in Egypt, whereas, the Quest for the Holy Grail is derived from the Isles of the Blest, now sunk beneath the Atlantic. It seems that the Druids were surprised to find that all the religious customs of the Cult of the Christos were the same as their own. This similarity facilitated the merging of the two cultures into one called Culdee.

There is one bit of historical evidence which can and does throw a great light upon the migration of the *Strangers* to England and the establishment of the Legend of the San Grael. Sigge, son of Fridulph, a pontiff prince of Azoff, a province of ancient Edessa, in the Crimea, 72 B.C., took the name of Odin when he assumed leadership of the early Saxons, and led twelve Peers and a great people across Europe via Northern Germany. Therehe was to establish the religion of Odin as shown in the Norse Edda. They finally reached the shores of Britain and became friendly with the Druids in Scotland and the Celts of Gaul.

Edessa was a stronghold of Gnosticism. Fridulph was the religious pontiff of a group of followers of Mithraism. Bardesanes went to Edessa about A.D. 72 and established a Gnostic Kingdom there. The Romans seized the small kingdom and a second migration travelled to England and became merged with the Culdee Cult. The Supreme Pontiff of the Culdees was called Odin and the God was called Votan; this belief was again reinforced by themigrations of the Vikings, who carried the religion of Votan back to Norway.

Latin Conversion Rejected

The Latin Church from Rome tried to convert the Culdees by missionaries, but they were sent back to Rome. In A.D. 579, the Latin Church met the Culdees at Witby, and Gregory, then a missionary, tried to Latinize the Culdees, but the Culdees replied to Pope Boniface IV: "Your Chair, O Pope, is defiled with heresy. Deadly errors have crept into it; it harbors horrors and impieties. Catholic! the true Catholicism you have lost. The Chrestians and true Catholics are they who have zealously preserved the True Faith, which was in existence from the beginning of time." Unfortunately the petty Kings south of the Humber river sided with Gregory and drove the Culdees into Wales.

The Saxons or Sakain race looked with suspicion on the efforts of Rome to convert them to Latin Christianity, which was founded by Constantine in 325 A.D. The Sakians and Culdees were non-Christian and the Vikings and Picts became merged with the Culdees, for the obvious reason that the Saxons, Culdees and Picts had the same constitutions and doctrines. There is also historical evidence that many more peoples found their way to Bri-

tain from Ireland, Scotland, Gaul, Norway, Germany, Spain, all having the same doctrines and constitutions. When William Duke of Normandy landed in England, he brought with him Bishops and Nobles who were Chrestians and Operative Masons, who were definitely opposed to the Latin Form of Christianity. There is further record that the Culdees sent teachers to Gaul, Ibernia, and Germany and perpetuated the True Religion in those lands, but were always persecuted by the Latins.

Continual migrations of the oppressed Catharites, Paulicans and Gogomiles from Central Europe, mainly due to the fierce persecutions of the Latin Popes and the Byzantium emperors, caused their influence to spread all over Europe and eventually they became merged in the migrations to and from Britain. Therefore all those who held to the original Chrestian Church found sanctuary in England. With them came the Knights Templar, the Fratres Lucis, Rosae Crucis and finally the establishment of modern Freemasonry.

True Origins of the Sanctuary of the Gnosis

Therefore, THE SANCTUARY OF THE GNOSIS, formerly known as "The Pre-Nicene Catholic Church" grew out of this ancient church, and is neither Latin Catholic or Eastern Catholic in its traditional sense, but is Culdee/Chrestian/Gnostic in structure and doctrine. It has an Arcane School attached to it in the same manner as did the Chrestians, Gnostics and Culdees and their forerunners, the migrants from Atlantis. From our researches *there is no doubt whatsoever that Atlantis was the homeland of the TRUE RELIGION.*

In summary, we have shown that the first Chrestian Church was established in England in A.D. 37. It should be clear now that the many ramifications of this True Religion did not begin within the Roman or Greek Empires. It must have had its beginnings in the most remote time of human recorded history. In fact, the outlines of this True Religion can still be traced in the oral histories of every nation and every known civilization that looked to the Lost Atlantis as their homeland.

It would be humanly impossible to give a concrete and specific outline of how this True Religion first founded in Atlantis spread out over our globe as of 9564 B.C. But we feel sure that the serious student who desires to know and understand the beginnings of RELIGION from which the various aspects and types of religious convictions sprung, will find the right sources in the various mythologies, legends, myths and written records available today.

NOTE: This series of articles dealing with the origins of the Christian religion has been requested by a number of our members. The details given are not in anyway complete, owing to the gross misrepresentation of the Church Fathers, but we hope thatic this series will present a guideline to those who are interested in this subject.